



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU GRANTS CONSENT FOR TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF BLOUNTSVILLE TELEPHONE COMPANY, AND BTC LONG DISTANCE, FROM PAGE & KISER COMMUNICATIONS, INC., TO OTELCO HOLDINGS

WC Docket No. 03-101

Pursuant to section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 214, and sections 0.91, 0.291, and 63.03 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, and 63.03, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) approves the application for consent to transfer control of the wholly-owned affiliates of Pager & Kiser, Blountsville Telephone Company, Inc. and BTC Long Distance, Inc., to Otelco Holdings, LLC.¹ No comments or petitions to deny were received in response to the public notice announcing that the application had been accepted for filing.

The Bureau finds, upon consideration of the record, that the proposed transfer will serve the public interest, convenience and necessity, and therefore grants the requested authorization.² Pursuant to section 1.103 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.103, the consent granted herein is effective upon the release of the Public Notice. Petitions for reconsideration under section 1.106 or applications for review under section 1.115 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.106, 1.115, may be filed within 30 days of the date of this Public Notice.

For further information, please contact Tracey Wilson, at (202) 418-1394 or Dennis Johnson, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418-0809.

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¹ See Domestic Section 214 Application Filed For Transfer of Control of Blountsville Telephone Company, Inc. and BTC Long Distance, Inc., From Page & Kiser Communications, Inc. to Otelco Holdings, LLC, WC Docket No. 03-101, Public Notice, DA 03-1501 (rel. May 2, 2003).

² See Joint Applications of Global Crossing Ltd., and Citizens Communications Company for Authority to Transfer Control of Corporations Holding Commission Licenses and Authorizations Pursuant to Sections 214 and 310(d) of the Communications Act and Parts 20, 22, 63, 78, 90, and 101 of the Commission's Rules, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 16 FCC Rcd 8507, 8511-14 (CCB/IB/CSB/WTB 2001) (granting transfer of control involving incumbent LECs with adjacent exchanges where merger would provide service efficiencies).